INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF
WOMEN 1928-1973

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General Secretariat
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C. - 1974

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women in its Third Regular Session, held from the 17th to the 21st of September 1973, studied and approved the document prepared by the Study Committee of the CIM. Said Study Committee was designated by the afore-mentioned Executive Committee to undertake an analysis of the objectives, structure, tasks completed and methods of the CIM to be presented to the Special Committee to Study the Inter-American System and to Propose Measures for Restructuring It, which had been named by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

This Committee to study the CIM was made up of the following persons: Lillian de Alurralde, Ana Sixta de Cuadros, Riza Z. Johnston, María Lavalle Urbina, Piedad de Suro and Otilia de Tejeira.

At the same time, the Executive Committee in the afore-mentioned session, approved an agreement that authorized the publication of this document, which hereafter follows for dissemination of the objectives, aims and methods of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

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BACKGROUND

In view of the decision of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States to review the organization, structures and procedures of the inter-American system, with a view to increasing its effectiveness and better adjusting it to our modern world, the Inter-American Commission of Women wishes to express certain views it feels may be useful in connection with its organization and functioning, and to make some far-reaching reflections on its future.

With the *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women,* adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 7, 1967, we affirmed that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and of society, prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity.

We also find a positive statement against discrimination on the basis of sex in the Preamble of an international instrument of the highest order, as in the Charter of the United Nations, which states: "We the peoples of the United Nations, determined... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the *equal rights of men and women* and of nations large and small..."

It is to the honor of our Hemisphere that the first organization to declare itself against discrimination on the basis of sex and to take concrete measures to combat it, was the Organization of American States. The Charter of the OAS, adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States, held in Bogota (1948) and amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires in 1967, categorically declares, in article 3.j. that the American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex. And, going from declarations to realities, we must recall that the birth of the Inter-American Commission of Women, goes back to the Fifth International Conference of American States, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1923, which pointed out the duty to struggle for the granting to women of the same political and civil rights enjoyed by men. The Sixth International Conference of American States, held in Havana in 1928, established the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the Inter-American system thus created the first intergovernmental organization in the world to be founded for the express purpose of working for the rights of women.

Since that time, many American women from every part of the hemisphere, have been carrying on a brave, resolute, many-faceted struggle. Over the years, they have created a favorable climate that has enabled them to achieve or encourage the granting of political rights and the amendment of Civil Codes throughout the hemisphere. It must be stressed that all this has been made possible by the creative impact of the Organization of American States.

The Inter-American Commission of Women has obtained the approval of three instruments at the highest international level. These are the Conventions on the Nationality of Women, on the Granting of Political Rights to Women, and on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women; (a) In 1933, twenty American countries, meeting in Montevideo at the Seventh International Conference of American States, signed the Convention on the Nationality of Women, which established that "There shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality, in their legislation or in their practice." This was the first convention on the rights of women to be adopted at an international conference; (b) at the Ninth International Conference of American States, held in Bogota in 1948, the Commission succeeded in having two Conventions signed: the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights to Women, which states that the right to vote and to be elected to national office shall not be denied or abridged by reason of sex, and the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women, which establishes that the American States agree to grant to women the same civil rights that men enjoy.

The Inter-American Commission of Women has actively participated in the implementation of conventions and recommendations of important international organizations that have been ratified by the countries of the hemisphere, such as ILO Convention No. 100, on "equal pay for equal work" and Convention No. 111 on the elimination of discrimination in employment.

The efforts carried out by CIM to achieve full application of the UNESCO Convention on the elimination of discrimination in education have been particularly significant, as they are aimed at enabling all women of the hemisphere to have equal access to all educational institutions and all study programs. To this end, the Inter-American Specialized Conference on the Integral Education of Women was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1972, for the purpose of studying the problem and planning activities designed to improve educational opportunities for women.

A hasty or superficial look at the work done by the Commission during this period might lead to the belief that, once CIM had fulfilled its original mission of working for the granting of political and civil rights, it might become a static and rigid organization with no flexible program or specific activities to keep in tune with the times. This, however, is not the case.

From this outstanding history of achievement in the struggle for civil and political rights, the Commission has moved on to a new task, to which it has devoted great efforts—the task of narrowing the gap between the juridical mandate of a law—sometimes at the constitutional level, and its projection in terms of the concrete situations of everyday life, which are even more strongly influenced by prejudice and social conventions. In other words we strive to bring the *de facto* situation in line with the *de jure* condition, for without this, reform cannot be considered fully achieved.

The extent and nature of American women's participation in the political life of their countries is still limited, even as regards the adoption of the decisions that most directly affect them. It is therefore essential, as part of the process of increasing national and regional integration, to determine what means can best be used to enable women fully to exercise the rights they have formally acquired and to apply them effectively. To this end, an invaluable contribution can be made by an organization to which the countries of the region belong and in which they participate through genuine representatives of their female population. This provides a forum for noting the many similarities that enable us to reaffirm our cultural identity as Americans, strengthening our hemispheric solidarity while recognizing our individual differences. Our similarities are undoubtedly greater than our differences and these only enhance the deep wealth and potential of our cultural experience.

Fortunately, change is the main feature of social groups and the Inter-American Commission of Women has kept in tune with the changing spirit of the Americas, in order to reflect in its own programs our nations' most positive aspirations and needs. In article 43.a of the Charter of the OAS, the Member States established that all human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security. In line with these fruitful concepts of social justice, CIM amended its Statutes in 1968, in order to expand its primary functions by adding to the political and civil ones on which it had already worked, the struggle to enable American women to exercise economic, social, educational and cultural rights, to encourage her participation in community life and promote the integration and participation of women through leadership courses, seminars, National Committees of Cooperation and other group activities.

Several countries have made fundamental changes in their laws in order to eliminate all discrimination against women and some have adopted legislation granting them the same rights as men. CIM has been instrumental in the achievement of these reforms.

The Commission has also promoted the establishment of Women's Bureaus in Latin America. It is conducting an on-going campaign to persuade governments to establish such offices in countries where they do not yet exist and to strengthen them in countries where they have already been set up.

Women now have the right to hold public office, by election or by appointment; they are entirely free to participate in the business world, to practice professions and to pursue studies at any educational level in every country in the hemisphere. However, despite all these advances, they still play a very limited role in the various fields of human endeavor. The viewpoint of women does not carry weight in the major decisions that affect the lives of nations; the woman's potential does not yet act as a driving force for development in the American countries.

In order to narrow the gap between acquired rights and their practical application, the First Regional Seminar on the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women was held by CIM in San Salvador in 1951. At this seminar, a study was made of the measures that should be adopted in order to ensure that women may effectively exercise their rights in every field of work. Subsequently, the Meeting of Technicians and Leaders of Women's Labor Bureaus was held in Mexico in 1957; and the Inter-American Seminar on the Strengthening of the Family was held in Venezuela in 1960.

In the early sixties, the Commission again expanded its goals on the basis of the experience gained in this field.

It was evident that, although their civil and political rights had been widely recognized, most women were not well enough informed or aware enough of the meaning and significance of their rights to be able to fully carry out their civic responsibilities. CIM therefore created the Inter-American Program for Training Women Leaders, under which it has already organized nine courses. It has also held four seminars on the incorporation of rural women into community development and two on the problems of Indian women. Every year, CIM also conducts ten seminars at the national level to provide training in leadership techniques and ten seminars on problems of young women. Finally, this year four national courses have been offered, with the collaboration of technical departments of the OAS, with specific programs for women leaders: three courses on social security, in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, and one seminar on cooperatives and youth, in Paraguay.

CIM has held twenty Assemblies in various American countries, in order to establish guidelines to better enable it to fulfill its purposes and to promote closer relations between the delegates of member countries and women's associations at the hemispheric level.

At the international level, CIM's influence has also been very positive. It is a pioneer in its field, having been established even earlier than the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which was created at the initiative of Latin American women leaders of CIM. Relations between the two organizations are most cordial and in 1970 the United Nations Commission adopted a resolution recommending the creation of other regional intergovernmental organizations similar to CIM. The League of Arab States set up its Commission in 1971 and similar ones are being planned in Africa and Asia.

It would take too much time and be too repetitious to detail the past achievements and the work CIM has yet to do in order to make a contribution, through women's groups, to the progress of America and the well-being of the American peoples. It is worthwhile, however, to mention the Latin American Integration Program, aimed at encouraging women to cooperate more fully in the integration process, especially as regards the dissemination of its principles, objectives and goals. Since 1967, CIM has held five seminars for women on this highly important subject. And we have recently added a new task: that of working for Latin American unity based on the permanent unity of our historic destiny. Our nations are all sisters and this sisterhood is particularly evident in the fundamental solidarity of Latin American women. There can be no stronger unifying factor, no group more willing to participate in this process or more open to its needs and opportunities.

In conclusion, and in view of the possibility of changes being made in the Inter-American system, the Inter-American Commission of Women reiterates its resolve to pursue its work with renewed vigor, in close solidarity with the Organization of American States, bringing to it the contributions of the women of our hemisphere. We shall work for the improvement of life

in the Americas at all levels and for the achievement of the standards set forth in the Charter, i.e., the incorporation and increasing participation of the marginal sectors of the population, in both rural and urban areas, in the economic, social, civic, cultural and political life of the nation.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF CIM

PHILOSOPHICAL BASES:

During the Sixties, the Inter-American Commission began to develop a body of doctrine concerning the position of American women in economic and social development and cultural and political life. Following are some of the most outstanding features of this new approach:

1. The economic and social development of our countries calls for the effective participation of scientifically or technically trained women at all levels of endeavor.

The Inter-American Commission of Women should help create an awareness among the women of the hemisphere of the need for them to achieve the highest levels of training possible in accordance with their aptitudes and interests, in order to be able to attain a suitable standard of living. The potential of women is not being fully used for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

2. The large sectors of the population who, because of their poverty, ignorance, isolation, race, or sex, still receive only a minimal share of our natural and manufactured resources, wish to receive the full benefit of their heritage. Women wish to have a place side by side with men and to enjoy the same opportunities.

Women must achieve this equality in every country. As in previous years, CIM serves as an intellectual guide, an information center, an incentive for the struggle, an agency for the training of leaders. The courses organized by the Inter-American Commission of Women for this purpose, its publications. its use of the communications media, its relations with other agencies and with the technical units of the OAS, UNESCO, ILO, the Commission on the Status of Women, etc., must be intensified.

3. Since movements to vindicate the masses work so slowly, the marginal sectors need to set up effective pressure groups to protect their rights in political parties, trade unions, communities. Women make up one of those marginal sectors. The Inter-American Commission of Women has the duty to provide women with the information most of them lack with regard to their rights in family legislation, labor codes, and in public educational, social security, health and other community services.

4. The problems of women have not yet been sufficiently studied, since the demand for knowledge in that regard is fairly recent. In several countries, public and private organizations are accumulating systematic scientific studies on women, their psychology, their potential, the development of their personality and the social factors that influence their development as humans. The Inter-American Commission of Women should sponsor similar studies on Latin American women. These should bear in mind the fact that, within an over-all context of unity, there are in Latin America certain common factors that influence the life of women, both as regards the maintenance of traditional concepts and structures and the accelerated changes of our times. There is also a diversity of influences deriving from climate, race, social classes, cultural levels, and urban or rural environments. The carrying out of these studies and the dissemination of the research undertaken represents a new stage in the work of the Commission. It will thus make available an up-to-date diagnosis of the problems of women in our times and a conceptual framework that will make it possible to present alternatives for action.

5. The inter-American system has a commitment with our peoples to promote economic and social development, peace, security, culture. Women, who represent more than half the population, must make their voice heard in order to ensure the attainment throughout the

hemisphere of the ideals, principles and programs of the OAS. In our hemisphere, women, as well as other marginal sectors of society, are seeking the means and the tools whereby they may be trained and integrated into the development of their countries, this is their civic duty and their individual right. The OAS needs women's voice to fully carry out its work. CIM is the answer of the inter-American system to the needs of the American woman. The Inter-American Commission of Women needs more support and more resources to fulfill its role within the OAS.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

To supplement the background material supplied above, we feel it is appropriate to explain briefly the objectives and functions of CIM as we see them at present:

1. To help create in society the necessary conditions to enable everyone to enjoy the fundamental human rights and thus to achieve the full integration of women in the economic, social, civic, educational and cultural development process;

2. To analyze the problems of American women in order to identify areas in which it is necessary to intensify action to encourage the development of their personality, to achieve their just aspirations and to enable them to participate in the over-all development of their countries;

3. To appeal to governments to comply with provisions aimed at solving the problems of women that have been approved by inter-American or international conferences, the General Assembly of the OAS and by their own assemblies;

4. To serve as an advisory body to the Organization of American States and its organs in matters relating to the well-being of women throughout the hemisphere;

5. To establish close cooperative relations with inter-American agencies and those of worldwide scope, and with public and private organizations when work concerns women;

6. To promote integration and participation of women in all fields through leadership courses, seminars, and other group activities;

7. To send periodic reports to the General Assembly of the OAS on the principal activities that have been carried on in connection with the work of the Commission;

8. To submit to the governments of the American states and to the General Assembly reports on the civil, political, social, economic, and cultural status of women in America, on the progress achieved in those fields, and on the problems that, in its opinion, should be considered, and to submit to them resolutions that will promote their solution.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN IN FAVOR OF WOMEN

(1928 - 1973)

During the 45 years in which the Inter-American Commission of Women has been in existence it has carried out the following tasks in favor of women of the Americas.

Recognition of Political Rights

When the Inter-American Commission of Women was created in 1928, the only American country which had given these rights to women was the United States of America. The United States took this action in 1920.

Women's suffrage in the 24 American republics

Country	*Year of recognition of women's suffrage at the national level*
United States of America	1920
Ecuador	1929
Brazil	1932
Uruguay	1932
Cuba	1934
El Salvador	1939
Dominican Republic	1942
Jamaica	1944
Guatemala	1945
Panama	1945
Trinidad and Tobago	1946
Argentina	1947
Venezuela	1947
Chile	1949
Costa Rica	1949
Haiti	1950
Barbados	1950
Bolivia	1952
Mexico	1953
Honduras	1955
Nicaragua	1955
Peru	1955
Colombia	1957
Paraguay	1961

CONVENTIONS

The Inter-American Commission of Women obtained approval of the following Conventions, signed and ratified, as of this date by the governments of the countries indicated below:

CONVENTION ON THE NATIONALITY OF WOMEN
Signed on December 26, 1933 at the Seventh
International Conference of American States
Montevideo, Uruguay

"Article I - There shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality, in their legislation or in their practice."

Signatory countries	Date of the instrument of ratification	Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification
Argentina	September 12, 1957	October 2, 1957
Bolivia		
Brazil	November 9, 1937	December 22, 1937
Colombia	June 22, 1936	July 22, 1936
Costa Rica (1952)	June 12, 1953	July 17, 1953
Cuba	November 26, 1943	December 15, 1943
Chile	July 11, 1934	August 29, 1934
Ecuador	June 24, 1936	October 3, 1936
El Salvador*		
United States*	June 30, 1934*	July 13, 1934*
Guatemala	April 6, 1936	July 17, 1936
Haiti		
Honduras*	May 23, 1935*	June 26, 1935*
Mexico	October 1, 1935*	January 27, 1936*
Nicaragua	July 11, 1955	August 31, 1955
Panama	November 11, 1938	December 13, 1938
Paraguay		
Peru		
Dominican Republic		
Uruguay	August 13, 1968	September 11, 1968
Venezuela (1964)		
TOTAL: 21	14	14

**With reservations*

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE GRANTING
OF POLITICAL RIGHTS TO WOMEN
Signed on May 2, 1948 at the Ninth
International Conference of American States in Bogotá

"Article I - The High Contracting Parties agree that the right to vote and to be elected to national office shall not be denied or abridged by reason of sex."

Signatory countries	Date of the Instrument of Ratification	Date of deposit of The Instrument of Ratification
Argentina	September 12, 1957	October 2, 1957
Brazil	February 15, 1950	March 21, 1950
Colombia	May 18, 1959	June 3, 1959
Costa Rica	April 3, 1951	April 17, 1951
Cuba	June 2, 1949	July 18, 1949
Chile		
Ecuador	December 30, 1948	March 17, 1949
El Salvador (1951)	March 27, 1951	April 6, 1951
United States of America		
Guatemala*	November 6, 1970	December 16, 1970
Haiti (1957)	October 21, 1957	January 31, 1958
Honduras (1955)	September 7, 1955	October 10, 1955
Nicaragua (1956)	May 22, 1956	August 22, 1956
Panama	March 16, 1951	April 6, 1951
Paraguay (1951)	July 20, 1963	August 5, 1963
Peru	January 26, 1956	June 11, 1956
Dominican Republic	April 11, 1949	April 22, 1949
Uruguay	August 13, 1968	September 11, 1968
Venezuela		
TOTAL: 19	16	16

**With reservations.*

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE GRANTING OF CIVIL RIGHTS TO WOMEN

Signed on May 2, 1948 at the Ninth International Conference of American States in Bogotá

"Article I - The American States agree to grant to women the same civil rights that men enjoy."

Signatory countries	Date of the Instrument of Ratification	Date of deposit of the Instrument of Ratification
Argentina	September 12, 1957	October 2, 1957
Bolivia		
Brazil	January 29, 1952	March 19, 1952
Colombia	May 18, 1959	June 3, 1959
Costa Rica	April 3, 1951	April 17, 1951
Cuba	June 2, 1949	July 18, 1949
Chile		
Ecuador	December 30, 1948	March 17, 1949
El Salvador	March 27, 1951	April 6, 1951
Guatemala	May 17, 1951	September 7, 1951
Haiti		
Honduras	September 7, 1955	October 10, 1955
Mexico	April 1, 1954	August 11, 1954
Nicaragua	May 22, 1956	August 22, 1956
Panama	March 16, 1951	April 6, 1951
Paraguay	September 10, 1951	December 19, 1951
Peru		
Dominican Republic	April 11, 1949	April 22, 1949
Uruguay	August 13, 1968	September 11, 1963
Venezuela		
TOTAL: 20	15	15

Source: Department of Legal Affairs, General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. U.S.A.

CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

Before the Inter-American Commission of Women was designated a governmental organization of a *permanent* nature for the recognition of women's rights, by the Eighth International Conference of 1938, the CIM had held three conferences.

The *First Conference* of the Inter-American Commission of Women was held in Havana, Cuba, in 1930 and was attended by delegations from 16 American countries. This was the first time that delegates appointed by their respective governments officially met to study the status of women in each country of the hemisphere. The basic subject studied in the first conference was the nationality of women and their children. Furthermore, the work procedure was agreed upon for a study of political and civil equality of women in the hemisphere.

The *Second Conference* of the Inter-American Commission of Women was held in Montevideo, in 1933, in conjunction with the Seventh International Conference of American States. Fourteen countries were represented. The Inter-American Commission of Women presented the Seventh International Conference of American States with the result of work accomplished on the civil and political status of women in the American countries, a report on the nationality of women, and recommendations regarding woman's status.

The *Third Conference* of the CIM was held in Lima, Peru, in 1938, together with the Eighth International Conference of American States. The Commission presented an extensive report on the condition of women's civil and political rights in the various American countries. This report won a vote of applause and appreciation from the delegations attending the Eighth Conference. It was resolved that the Pan American Union be entrusted "with the study of an organic statute for the Commission." In this way, the Commission was established on a permanent basis.

One of the most important results of the Conference was the adoption of the "Declaration of Lima in Favor of Women's Rights," in which it was agreed:

1. To declare that women have the right:

    a) To political treatment on the basis of equality with men;
    b) To the enjoyment of equality as to civil status;
    c) To full protection in and opportunity for work;
    d) To the most ample protection as mothers;

2. To urge the Governments of the American republics, which have not yet done so, to adopt, as soon as possible, the necessary legislation to carry out fully the principles contained in this declaration, which shall be known as "The Declaration of Lima in Favor of Women's Rights."

ASSEMBLIES OF THE COMMISSION

In accordance with its Organic Statute, the Inter-American Commission of Women holds regular assemblies every two years and special assemblies on the dates and under the conditions set forth in the Regulations. These assemblies formulate the policy and specify the action program of the Commission. The regular Assemblies may be held no later than 90 days after the expiration of the two-year period following the previous regular Assembly.

Every American country is represented at the Assemblies by delegates appointed for this purpose. The expenses incurred in the organization and functioning of the assemblies are borne by the host government and by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

To date, the Commission has held the following Assemblies:

1940	First	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1941	Second	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1942	Third	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1944	Fourth	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1946	Fifth	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1949	Sixth (Special)	Buenos Aires, Argentina
1951	Seventh	Santiago, Chile
1952	Eighth	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1953	Ninth	Asunción, Paraguay
1955	Tenth	San Juan, Puerto Rico
1956	Eleventh	Santo Domingo (Ciudad Trujillo), Dominican Republic
1957	Twelfth	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1959	Thirteenth	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1961	Second Special	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1963	Third Special	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1966	Fourth Special	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1967	Fourteenth	Montevideo, Uruguay
1968	Fifth Special	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
1970	Fifteenth	Bogotá, Colombia
1972	Sixteenth	State Department, Washington, D.C.

INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN

(Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1972)

Prior to this Conference, two technical seminars were held at the OAS and several countries, in order to outline the position of delegations.

REVISION OF CODES

In 1968, the Inter-American Commission of Women started a campaign for revision of the civil codes of member states, in order to eliminate from them discriminations against women or provisions that might lend themselves to discriminating practices. Thus, study and proposal of amendments to the civil codes of Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico was obtained.

WOMEN'S BUREAUS

Since 1949, the CIM has been promoting the establishment or strengthening of Women's Bureaus before the governments, to study the problems of working women and propose solutions thereto; to see that regulations governing the work of women are observed; to promote the education of working women in order to allow them to exercise their rights and to train them for active participation in the labor force.

In 1969, this campaign in behalf of Women's Bureaus was stepped up, and as a result such bureaus were established in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Venezuela. At present, 17 of the 24 member states of the OAS have such bureaus.

INFLUENCE OF THE COMMISSION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Considering the need for creating an organization similar to the Inter-American Commission of Women at a worldwide level to struggle for the rights of women, three Latin American women, delegates of their respective countries to the Inter-American Commission, proposed and promoted the establishment of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. Since 1949, the Inter-American Commission has submitted reports on its activities, including the most outstanding news on the progress of women in the hemisphere, to that commission. As a result of these reports and recognizing the work carried out by the CIM in behalf of women in the American countries, the delegates to the twenty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1970, approved a resolution recommending the establishment of a commission similar to the CIM in the Arab League. At present, the establishment of similar commissions in the Asian and African countries has been recommended.

SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND COURSES HELD BY THE CIM

For the purpose of studying the problems of women and encouraging women's participation in their country's development programs, since its founding the Commission has held the following courses and seminars:

Country - Date	Activity	Participating countries
San Salvador, El Salvador 15 January - 3 February, 1951	First Regional Seminar on the Civil, Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Women	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and United States
Mexico City 20 April - 1 May, 1957	Meeting of Technicians and Leaders of Women's Labour Bureaus	Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and United States
Caracas, Venezuela 11-18 June, 1960	Inter-American Seminar on the Strenghthening of the Family	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, United States and Venezuela
	Inter-American Program for Training Women Leaders	
Puerto Rico 31 January - 31 March, 1966	First Course	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico Nicaragua, Panama, and Puerto Rico
Santiago, Chile 10 April - 20 May 1967	Second Course	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela

San Jose, Costa Rica 29 January - 8 March, 1968	Third Course	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Buenos Aires, Argentina 14 April - 23 May, 1969	Fourth Course	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Quito, Ecuador 22 January - 27 February, 1970	Fifth Course	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Caracas, Venezuela 15 May - 15 June, 1971	Sixth Course	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela
*Sto. Domingo, Dominican Republic 7-16 November, 1971	Seventh Course	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela
Caracas, Venezuela 24 April - 3 May, 1972	Eighth Course	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
Mexico City, Mexico 28 June - 12 July 1973	Ninth Course	Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay, and Venezuela

Latin American Integration

Montevideo, Uruguay 13-15 November, 1967	Seminar on Latin American Integration (for delegates to the Fourteenth Assembly of the Commission)	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Washington, D.C. 4-6 June, 1968	Seminar on the Participation of Women in the Development Process (for delegates to the Fifth Special Assembly of the Commission)	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela

Tegucigalpa, Honduras 28 June - 5 July, 1969	First Seminar	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama
Santiago, Chile 12-22 April, 1971	Second Seminar	Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela
La Paz, Bolivia 10-19 May, 1972	Third Seminar	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela
Sto. Domingo, Dominican Republic 10-17 April, 1973	Fourth Seminar	Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, United States, and Venezuela

Incorporation of the Rural Woman into Community Development

La Paz, Bolivia Lima, Peru 11-12 November, 1969	First Seminar	Bolivia, Chile, Colombia Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela
Asunción, Paraguay 31 May - 10 June 1971	Second Seminar	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela
Bogota, Colombia 29 January - 7 February 1972	Third Seminar	Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Buenos Aires, Argentina 23-29 April, 1973	Fourth Seminar	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay

Problems of Indian Women

San Cristobal las Casas Chiapas - Mexico 18-23 June, 1972	First Seminar	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Venezuela
Guatemala, Guatemala 28 May - 2 June, 1973	Second Seminar	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Venezuela

National Seminars
(1972-1973)

Activity	Participating countries
Nineteenth Seminars for Women Leaders	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Eighteenth Seminars on the Problems of Young Women	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela

Courses held in Coordination with the Technical Departments of OAS - 1973

Courses on Social Security	Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras
Course on Cooperativism and Youth	Paraguay

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MEMBER STATES

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Bolivia

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Costa Rica

Cuba

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

El Salvador

Guatemala

Haiti

Honduras

Jamaica

Mexico

Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

Trinidad and Tobago

United States

Uruguay

Venezuela

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the oldest of international regional organizations. The Organization had its origin in the International Union of American Republics, established on April 14, 1890, by the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C. Consequently, each year April 14 is observed as Pan American Day. The Charter governing the Organization, signed in Bogotá in 1948, was amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, which entered into force in February 1970.

The basic objectives of the OAS are: to strengthen the peace and security of the hemisphere; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of the member states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them, and to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development. Another objective of the inter-American system is to speed up the process of integration of the developing nations of the Hemisphere.

The OAS achieves its objectives through the following organs: (a) the General Assembly; (b) the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; (c) the three Councils (the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science, and Culture); (d) the Inter-American Juridical Committee; (e) the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; (f) the General Secretariat; (g) the Specialized Conferences, and (h) the Specialized Organizations.

The General Assembly meets in regular session once a year. The Meeting of Consultation is convened in order to consider urgent and important problems. The Permanent Council has a subsidiary organ, the Inter-American Committee on Peaceful Settlement, and in the circumstances provided for in the Charter and in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, serves provisionally as the Organ of Consultation. Each of the other two Councils hold one regular meeting annually, and each has a Permanent Executive Committee. The General Secretariat maintains offices in the member states, and an office in Europe. The Permanent Council and the General Secretariat have their headquarters in Washington, D.C., as do the Permanent Executive Committees of the other two Councils.

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